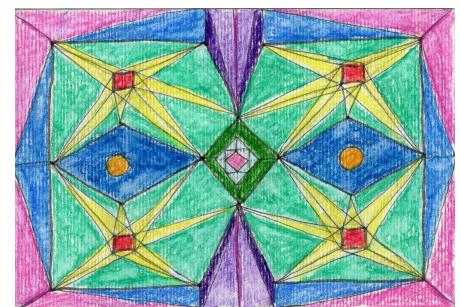
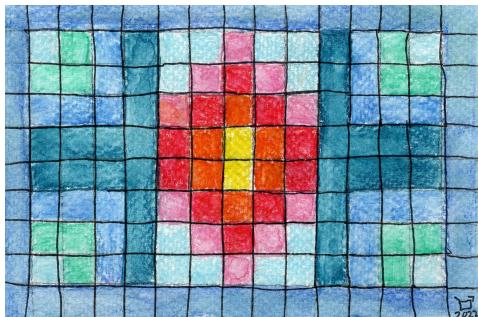


A Jewish Almanac

Calendar, Torah and other resources for your
Jewish Year—2023 / 5783-5784

Featuring watercolor art by James M. Branum



A Jewish Almanac

Calendar, Torah and other resources for your Jewish Year—2023 / 5783-5784

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CREDITS/NOTES: Thanks to Hebcal.com for the calendar data (if there are any mistakes in this calendar it is likely due to a copying error), and Almanac.com for the moon phase data. The holidays chosen include Jewish holidays of significance in the diaspora and some secular holidays, but this calendar omits some minor fasts and some secular holidays. To the best of my knowledge, the dates used here reflect Jewish practice in Israel, as well as in Reform and Humanistic movements (i.e. one day for Rosh Hashanah, etc.). The quotes come from a variety of sources from both inside and outside Judaism, and reflect both humanistic and theistic perspectives. A huge thanks go to the creators of classic *Jewish Catalog* (volumes 1-3) which provided a great deal of inspiration for this project as a tool for DIY Judaism. I also was inspired by the many *Farmers Almanacs* made by several publishers. I have been an avid fan of this genre since my childhood and am excited to try to translate this form for a new context and era.

THANKS: I want to express my gratitude to just a few of the people who have guided and supported me in my Jewish education to date: Rabbi Vered Harris (of Temple B'nai Israel of Oklahoma City), Rabbi Miriam Jerris (of the Society for Humanistic Judaism), and Daniel Libenson and Rabbi Lex Rofeberg (hosts of the *Judaism Unbound* podcast and the creators of the Unyeshiva, who taught me the value of relentless questioning and reinvention in Judaism). And of course I want to thank the Jewish communities that I am a part of: Temple B'nai Israel and the Spinoza Havurah, as well as the Oklahoma Objector Community (an interfaith religious humanist congregation). And most of all I have to thank my chavrutah and partner-in-life, Becky.

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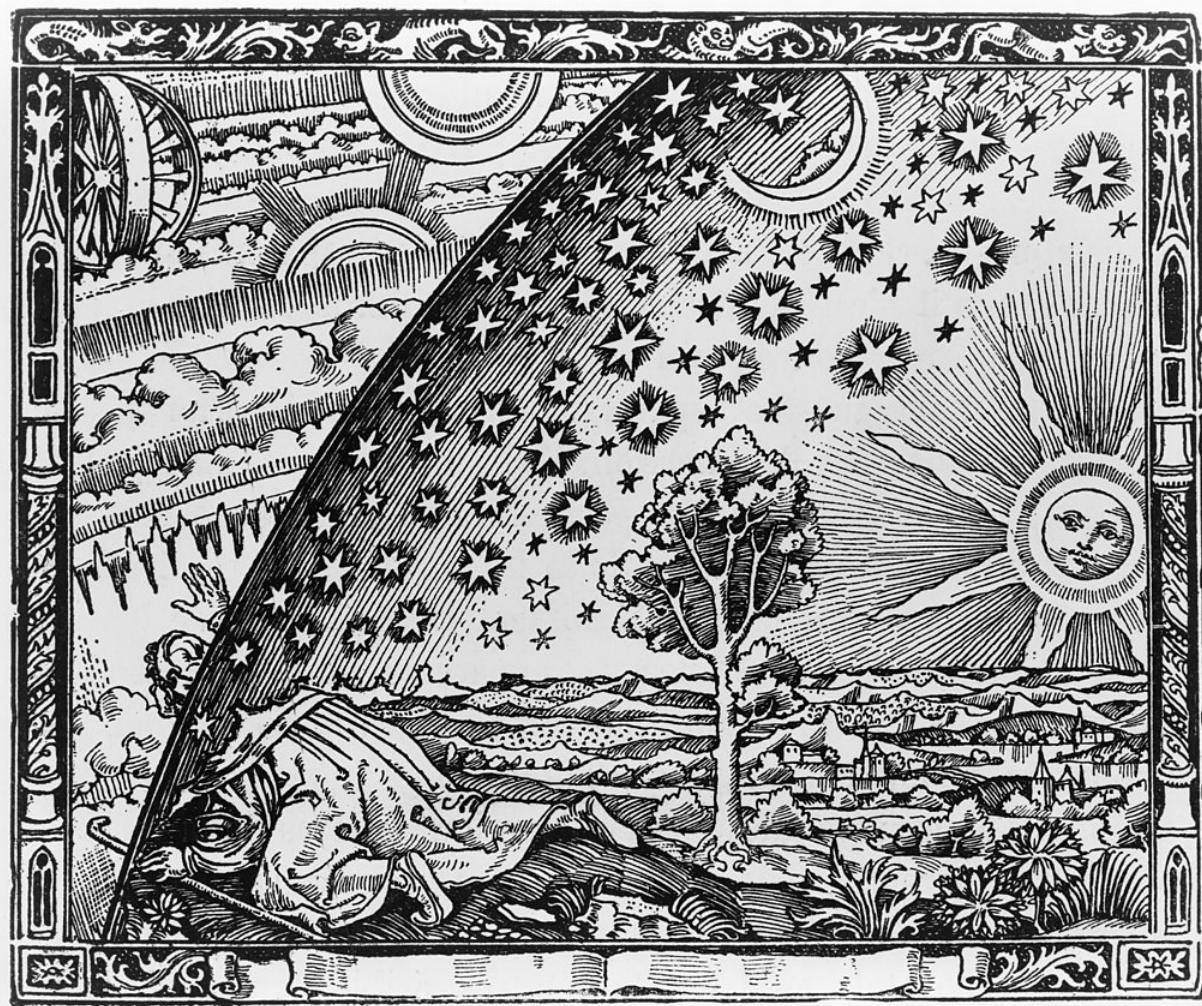
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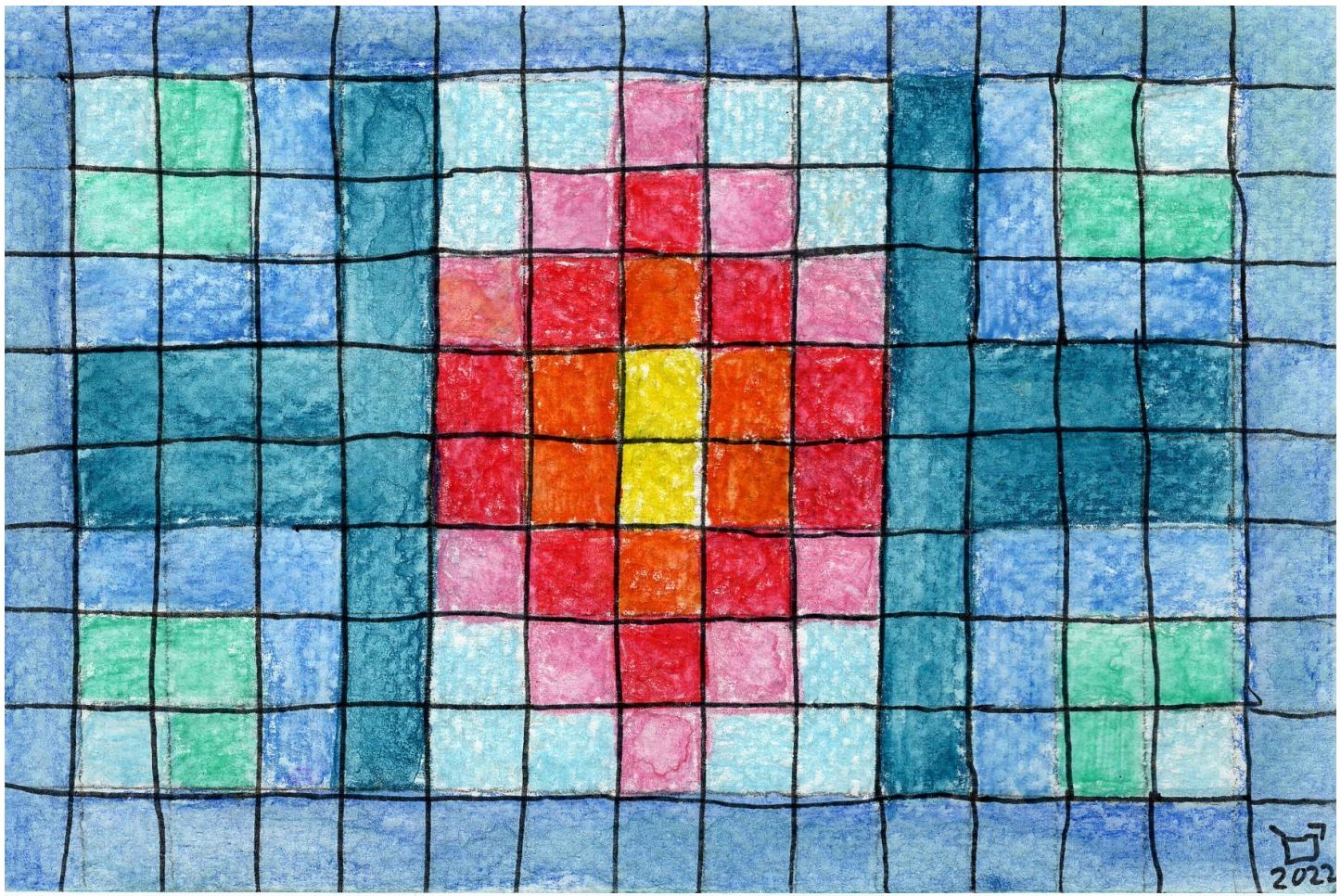
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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flammarion_engraving





January 2023 –Tevet/Sh'vat 5783

# Day	Hebrew	# Day	Hebrew	Holidays:
1 SUN	8 Tevet	16 MON	23 Tevet	1: New Year's Day
2 MON	9 Tevet	17 TUE	24 Tevet	16: MLK Day (US)
3 TUE	10 Tevet	18 WED	25 Tevet	23: Rosh Chodesh
4 WED	11 Tevet	19 THU	26 Tevet	
5 THU	12 Tevet	20 FRI	27 Tevet	
6 FRI	13 Tevet	21 SAT	28 Tevet	
7 SAT	14 Tevet	22 SUN	29 Tevet	
8 SUN	15 Tevet	23 MON	1 Sh'vat	
9 MON	16 Tevet	24 TUE	2 Sh'vat	
10 TUE	17 Tevet	25 WED	3 Sh'vat	
11 WED	18 Tevet	26 THU	4 Sh'vat	
12 THU	19 Tevet	27 FRI	5 Sh'vat	
13 FRI	20 Tevet	28 SAT	6 Sh'vat	
14 SAT	21 Tevet	29 SUN	7 Sh'vat	
15 SUN	22 Tevet	30 MON	8 Sh'vat	
		31 TUE	9 Sh'vat	

Torah Portions:

7: Vayechi

Gen. 47:28-50:26

14: Shemot

Ex. 1:1-6:1

21: Vaera

Ex. 6:2-9:35

28: Bo

Ex. 10:1-13:16

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that."

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

TORAH: Genesis / Bereshit

Parsha name	English Equivalent	Parsha Portion	
Bereshit, בְּרֵאשִׁית	In the Beginning	Gen. 1:1-6:8	Summary (from Wikipedia): The Book of Genesis (from Greek Γένεσις, Génésis; Hebrew: בְּרֵאשִׁית, "Bərē 'šít, "In [the] beginning") is the first book of the Hebrew Bible and the Christian Old Testament. Its Hebrew name is the same as its first word, <i>Bereshit</i> ("In the beginning"). Genesis is an account of the creation of the world, the early history of humanity, and of Israel's ancestors and the origins of the Jewish people.
Noach, נֹחַ	Noah	6:9-11:32	
Lech-Lecha, לְכָה-לְךָ	Go Forth!	12:1-17:27	
Vayeira, וַיֹּאמֶר	And He Appeared	18:1-22:24	
Chayei Sarah, חַיָּה שָׂרָה,	The Life of Sarah	23:1-25:18	
Toledot, תּוֹלְדֹת	Generations	25:19-28:9	Tradition credits Moses as the author of Genesis, as well as the books of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and most of Deuteronomy; however, modern scholars, especially from the 19th century onward, place the books' authorship in the 6th and 5th centuries BC, hundreds of years after Moses is supposed to have lived. Based on scientific interpretation of archaeological, genetic, and linguistic evidence, most scholars consider Genesis to be primarily mythological rather than historical.
Vayetze, וַיַּצֵּא	And He Went Out	28:10-32:3	
Vayishlach, וַיִּשְׁלַח	And He Sent Out	32:4-36:43	
Vayeshev, וַיִּשְׁבַּט	And He Settled	37:1-40:23	
Miketz, מִקְצָה	At the End	41:1-44:17	
Vayigash, וַיִּגְשַׁח	And He Approached	44:18-47:27	
Vayechi, וַיֵּחֶи	And He Lived	47:28-50:26	



from: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Creation_of_Light.png



February 2023 –Sh'vat/Adar 5783

#Day	Hebrew	#Day	Hebrew	Holidays:
1 WED	10 Sh'vat	16 THU	25 Tevet	6: Tu B'shvat
2 THU	11 Sh'vat	17 FRI	26 Tevet	14: Valentine's Day
3 FRI	12 Sh'vat	18 SAT	27 Tevet	18: Shabbat Shekalim
4 SAT	13 Sh'vat	19 SUN	28 Tevet	21-22: Rosh Chodesh
○ 5 SUN	14 Sh'vat	● 20 MON	29 Tevet	
6 MON	15 Sh'vat	21 TUE	30 Tevet	
7 TUE	16 Sh'vat	22 WED	1 Adar	Torah Portions:
8 WED	17 Sh'vat	23 THU	2 Adar	4: Beshlach
9 THU	18 Sh'vat	24 FRI	3 Adar	Ex. 13:17-17:16
10 FRI	19 Sh'vat	25 SAT	4 Adar	11: Yitro
11 SAT	20 Sh'vat	26 SUN	5 Adar	Ex. 18:1-20:23
12 SUN	21 Sh'vat	● 27 MON	6 Adar	18: Mishpatim
● 13 MON	22 Sh'vat	28 TUE	7 Adar	Ex. 21:1-24:18
14 TUE	23 Sh'vat			25: Terumah
15 WED	24 Sh'vat			Ex. 25:19-27:19)

" To cherish what remains of the Earth and to foster its renewal
is our only legitimate hope of survival." – Wendell Berry

TORAH: Exodus / Shemot

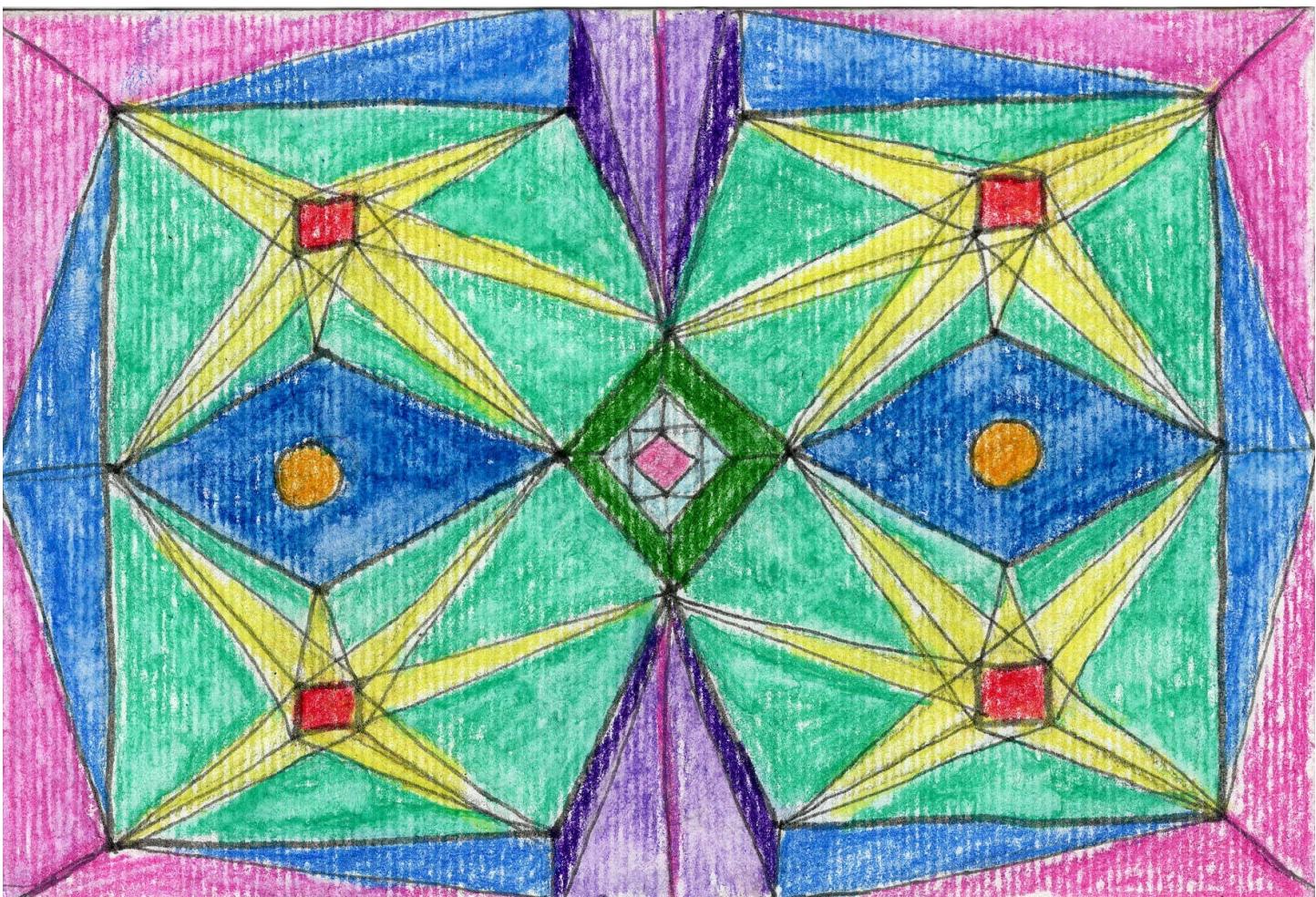
Parsha name	English Equivalent	Parsha Portion
<u>Shemot, תינעֹת</u>	Names	Ex. 1:1-6:1
<u>Va'eira, וארא</u>	And I Appeared	6:2-9:35
<u>Bo, אָהָוָה</u>	Come!	10:1-13:16
<u>Beshalach, בְּשַׁלֵּחַ</u>	When He Sent Out	13:17-17:16
<u>Yitro, יִתְרוּ</u>	Jethro	18:1-20:22
<u>Mishpatim, מִשְׁפָטִים</u>	Laws	21:1-24:18
<u>Terumah, תְּרֻמָּה</u>	Donation	25:1-27:19
<u>Tetzaveh, תְּצִיבָה</u>	You Shall Command	27:20-30:10
<u>Ki Tisa, בְּפִתְשָׁא</u>	When You Count	30:11-34:35
<u>*Vayakhel, וַיִּקְהֶל</u>	And He Assembled	35:1-38:20
<u>Pekudei, פְּקֻדֵּי</u>	Accountings	38:21-40:38

Summary (adapted from Wikipedia): The Book of Exodus (from Ancient Greek: Ἔξοδος, romanized: Éxodos; Hebrew: תְּנַשֵּׁת Šemōt, "Names") is the second book of the Bible. It narrates the story of the Exodus, in which the Israelites leave slavery in Biblical Egypt through the strength of YHVH, who has chosen them as his people. The Israelites then journey with the prophet Moses to Mount Sinai, where YHVH gives the 10 commandments and they enter into a covenant with YHVH, who promises to make them a "holy nation, and a kingdom of priests" on condition of their faithfulness. He gives them their laws and instructions to build the Tabernacle, the means by which he will come from heaven and dwell with them and lead them in a holy war to possess the land of Canaan (the "Promised Land"), which had earlier, according to the story of Genesis, been promised to the seed of Abraham.

Traditionally ascribed to Moses himself, modern scholars see its initial composition as a product of the Babylonian exile (6th century BCE), based on earlier written sources and oral traditions, with final revisions in the Persian post-exilic period (5th century BCE). Carol Meyers, in her commentary on Exodus, suggests that it is arguably the most important book in the Bible, as it presents the defining features of Israel's identity—memories of a past marked by hardship and escape, a binding covenant with God, who chooses Israel, and the establishment of the life of the community and the guidelines for sustaining it. The consensus among modern scholars is that the story in the Book of Exodus is best understood as a myth.



Charlton Heston in *The Ten Commandments* (1956)



March 2023 –Adar/Nisan 5783

# Day	Hebrew	# Day	Hebrew	Holidays:
1 WED	8 Adar	16 THU	23 Adar	7: Purim
2 THU	9 Adar	17 FRI	24 Adar	12: DST begins (US)
3 FRI	10 Adar	18 SAT	25 Adar	18: Shabbat Ha Chodesh
4 SAT	11 Adar	19 SUN	26 Adar	20: March Equinox
5 SUN	12 Adar	20 MON	27 Adar	23 : Rosh Chodesh
6 MON	13 Adar	● 21 TUE	28 Adar	31: César Chávez Day
○ 7 TUE	14 Adar	22 WED	29 Adar	Torah Portions:
8 WED	15 Adar	23 THU	1 Nisan	4: Tetzaveh
9 THU	16 Adar	24 FRI	2 Nisan	Ex. Ex. 27:20-30:10
10 FRI	17 Adar	25 SAT	3 Nisan	11: Ki Tisa
11 SAT	18 Adar	26 SUN	4 Nisan	Ex. 30:11-34:35
12 SUN	19 Adar	27 MON	5 Nisan	18: Vayakhel-Pekudei
13 MON	20 Adar	● 28 TUE	6 Nisan	Ex. 35:1-40:38
○ 14 TUE	21 Adar	29 WED	7 Nisan	25: Vayikra
15 WED	22 Adar	30 THU	8 Nisan	Lev. 1:1-5:26
		31 FRI	9 Nisan	

“... if you keep silent in this crisis, relief and deliverance will come to the Jews from another quarter, while you and your father’s house will perish. And who knows, perhaps you have attained to royal position for just such a crisis.” - Mordechai (Esther 4:13)

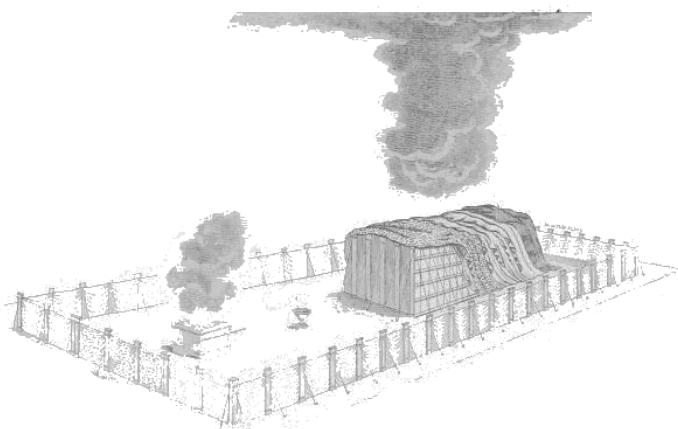
TORAH: Leviticus / Vayikra

Parsha name	English Equivalent	Parsha Portion
Vayikra, וַיְקֹרֶא	And He Called	Lev. 1:1-5:26
Tzav, זָב	Command!	6:1-8:36
Shemini, שְׁמִינִי	Eighth	9:1-11:47
*Tazria, תְּזִרְעָה	She Bears Seed	12:1-13:59
Metzora, מְצֻרָּה	Leprous	14:1-15:33
*Acharei Mot, אַחֲרֵי מוֹת	After the Death	16:1-18:30
Kedoshim, קָדְשִׁים	Holy Ones	19:1-20:27
Emor, אֱמֹר	Speak!	21:1-24:23
*Behar, בְּהָר	On the Mount	25:1-26:2
Bechukotai, בְּחֻקֹּתִי	In My Statutes	26:3-27:34

Summary (adapted from Wikipedia): The book of Leviticus (/lɪ'vɪtɪkəs/, from Ancient Greek: Λευΐτικόν, Leuitikón; Hebrew: וַיְקֹרֶא Vayyiqrā', "And He called") is the third book of the Torah (the Pentateuch) and of the Old Testament, also known as the Third Book of Moses. Scholars generally agree that it developed over a long period of time, reaching its' present form during the Persian Period, from 538–332 BC.

Most of its chapters (1–7, 11–27) consist of YHVH's speeches to Moses, which YHVH tells Moses to repeat to the Israelites. This takes place within the story of the Israelites' Exodus after they escaped Egypt and reached Mount Sinai (Exodus 19:1). The Book of Exodus narrates how Moses led the Israelites in building the Tabernacle (Exodus 35–40) with God's instructions (Exodus 25–31). In Leviticus, God tells the Israelites and their priests, Aaron and his sons, how to make offerings in the Tabernacle and how to conduct themselves while camped around the holy tent sanctuary. Leviticus takes place during the month or month-and-a-half between the completion of the Tabernacle (Exodus 40:17) and the Israelites' departure from Sinai (Numbers 1:1, 10:11).

The instructions of Leviticus emphasize ritual, legal, and moral practices rather than beliefs. Nevertheless, they reflect the world view of the creation story in Genesis 1 that God wishes to live with humans. The book teaches that faithful performance of the sanctuary rituals can make that possible, so long as the people avoid sin and impurity whenever possible. The rituals, especially the sin and guilt offerings, provide the means to gain forgiveness for sins (Leviticus 4–5) and purification from impurities (Leviticus 11–16) so that God can continue to live in the Tabernacle in the midst of the people.





April 2023 -Nisan/Iyyar 5783

Holidays:

# Day	Hebrew	# Day	Hebrew	
1 SAT	10 Nisan	16 SUN	25 Nisan	6-13 : Pesach
2 SUN	11 Nisan	17 MON	26 Nisan	9: Easter (Christian)
3 MON	12 Nisan	18 TUE	27 Nisan	15: Yom HaShoah
4 TUE	13 Nisan	● 19 WED	28 Nisan	21-22: Rosh Chodesh
○ 5 WED	14 Nisan	20 THU	29 Nisan	25 : Yom Hazikaron
6 THU	15 Nisan	21 FRI	30 Nisan	26: Yom HaAtma'ut
7 FRI	16 Nisan	22 SAT	1 Iyyar	Torah Portions:
8 SAT	17 Nisan	23 SUN	2 Iyyar	1 - Tzav
9 SUN	18 Nisan	24 MON	3 Iyyar	Lev. 6:1-8:36
10 MON	19 Nisan	25 TUE	4 Iyyar	15-Shmini
11 TUE	20 Nisan	26 WED	5 Iyyar	Lev. 9:1-11:47
12 WED	21 Nisan	● 27 THU	6 Iyyar	22-Tazria-Metzora
○ 13 THU	22 Nisan	28 FRI	7 Iyyar	Lev. 12:1-15:33
14 FRI	23 Nisan	29 SAT	8 Iyyar	29-Achrei Mot-Kedoshim
15 SAT	24 Nisan	30 SUN	9 Iyyar	Lev. 16:1-20:27

"Better to die fighting for freedom than be a prisoner all the days of your life."
-Bob Marley

TORAH: Numbers / Bemidbar

Parsha name	English Equivalent	Parsha Portion
Bamidbar, במדבר	In the Wilderness	Num. 1:1-4:20
Naso, נושא	Count!	4:21-7:89
Behaalotecha, בהעלותך	When You Raise	8:1-12:16
Shlach, שלח-לך	Send Out!	13:1-15:41
Korach, קורח	Korach	16:1-18:32
*Chukat, תקנות	Statute	19:1-22:1
Balak, בלך	Balak	22:2-25:9
Pinchas, פינחס	Phineas	25:10-30:1
*Matot, מטות	Tribes	30:2-32:42
Masei, מסע	Journeys	33:1-36:13

Summary (adapted from Wikipedia): The book of Numbers (from Greek Ἀριθμοί, Arithmoi; Hebrew: בְּמִדְבָּר Bəmīdbar, "In the desert [of]") is the fourth book of the Hebrew Bible, and the fourth of five books of the Jewish Torah. The book has a long and complex history; its final form is possibly due to a Priestly redaction (i.e., editing) of a Yahwistic source made some time in the early Persian period (5th century BC). The name of the book comes from the two censuses taken of the Israelites.

Numbers begins at Mount Sinai, where the Israelites have received their laws and covenant from God and God has taken up residence among them in the sanctuary. The task before them is to take possession of the Promised Land. The people are counted and preparations are made for resuming their march. The Israelites begin the journey, but they "grumble" at the hardships along the way, and about the authority of Moses and Aaron. For these acts, God destroys approximately 15,000 of them through various means. They arrive at the borders of Canaan and send spies into the land. Upon hearing the spies' fearful report concerning the conditions in Canaan, the Israelites refuse to take possession of it. God condemns them to death in the wilderness until a new generation can grow up and carry out the task. The book ends with the new generation of Israelites in the "plains of Moab" ready for the crossing of the Jordan River.

Numbers is the culmination of the story of Israel's exodus from oppression in Egypt and their journey to take possession of the land God promised their fathers. As such it draws to a conclusion the themes introduced in Genesis and played out in Exodus and Leviticus: God has promised the Israelites that they shall become a great (i.e. numerous) nation, that they will have a special relationship with YHVH their god, and that they shall take possession of the land of Canaan. Numbers also demonstrates the importance of holiness, faithfulness and trust: despite God's presence and his priests, Israel lacks in faith and the possession of the land is left to a new generation.

From: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Twelve_Spies#/media/File:Schnorr_von_Carolsfeld_Bibel_in_Bildern_1860_058.png





May 2023 -Iyyar/Sivan 5783

#	Day	Hebrew	#	Day	Hebrew	Holidays:
1	MON	10 Iyyar	16	TUE	25 Iyyar	1: Int'l Workers Day
2	TUE	11 Iyyar	17	WED	26 Iyyar	5:- Pesach Sheni
3	WED	12 Iyyar	18	THU	27 Iyyar	9 : Lag BaOmer
4	THU	13 Iyyar	● 19	FRI	28 Iyyar	14: Mother's Day
○ 5	FRI	14 Iyyar	20	SAT	29 Iyyar	21: Rosh Chodesh
6	SAT	15 Iyyar	21	SUN	1 Sivan	22: Harvey Milk Day
7	SUN	16 Iyyar	22	MON	2 Sivan	26: Shavuot
8	MON	17 Iyyar	23	TUE	3 Sivan	29: Memorial Day (US)
9	TUE	18 Iyyar	24	WED	4 Sivan	Torah Portions:
10	WED	19 Iyyar	25	THU	5 Sivan	6 - Emor
11	THU	20 Iyyar	26	FRI	6 Sivan	Lev. 21:1-24:23
○ 12	FRI	21 Iyyar	● 27	SAT	7 Sivan	13- Behar-Bechukotai
13	SAT	22 Iyyar	28	SUN	8 Sivan	Lev. 25:1-27:34
14	SUN	23 Iyyar	29	MON	9 Sivan	20- Bamidbar
15	MON	24 Iyyar	30	TUE	10 Sivan	Num. 1:1-4:20)
			31	WED	11 Sivan	27- Nasso
						Num. 4:21-7:89

"Years ago, I recognized my kinship with all living things, and I made up my mind that I was not one bit better than the meanest on earth... While there is a lower class, I am in it, while there is a criminal element, I am of it, and while there is a soul in prison, I am not free..."

- Eugene V. Debs

TORAH: Deuteronomy / Devarim

Parsha name	English Equivalent	Parsha Portion
Devarim, דברים	Words	Deut. 1:1-3:22
Va'etchanan, ואתחנן	And I Pleaded	3:23-7:11
Eikev, עיקב	As a Consequence	7:12-11:25
Re'eh, ראה	See!	11:26-16:17
Shoftim, שופטים	Judges	16:18-21:9
Ki Teitzei, כי-תצא	When You Go Out	21:10-25:19
Ki Tavo, כי-תבוא	When You Come In	26:1-29:8
*Nitzavim, נצבים	Standing	29:9-30:20
Vayelech, וילך	And He Went	31:1-31:30
Haazinu, האזינו	Listen!	32:1-32:52
V'Zot HaBerachah, וזה ברכת	And This Is the Blessing	33:1-34:12

Summary (adapted from Wikipedia): Deuteronomy (Ancient Greek: Δευτερονόμιον, romanized: Deuteronomion, lit. 'second law') is the fifth and last book of the Torah (in Judaism), where it is called Devarim (Hebrew: דְּבָרִים Devarim, '[the] words [of Moses]') and the fifth book of the Christian Old Testament.

Chapters 1–30 of the book consist of three sermons or speeches delivered to the Israelites by Moses on the Plains of Moab, shortly before they enter the Promised Land. The first sermon recounts the forty years of wilderness wanderings which had led to that moment, and ends with an exhortation to observe the law. The second sermon reminds the Israelites of the need to follow YHVH and the laws (or teachings) he has given them, on which their possession of the land depends. The third sermon offers the comfort that, even should the nation of Israel prove unfaithful and so lose the land, with repentance all can be restored.

The final four chapters (31–34) contain the Song of Moses, the Blessing of Moses, and the narratives recounting the passing of the mantle of leadership from Moses to Joshua and, finally, the death of Moses on Mount Nebo.

One of its most significant verses is Deuteronomy 6:4, the Shema Yisrael, which has become been described as the definitive statement of Jewish identity for theistic Jews: "Hear, O Israel: the LORD our God, the LORD is one." Verses 6:4–5 were also quoted by Jesus in Mark 12:28–34 as the Great Commandment.



Picture from https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Schnorr_von_Carolsfeld_Bibel_in_Bildern_1860_064.png



June 2023 – Sivan/Tamuz 5783

# Day	Hebrew	# Day	Hebrew
1 THU	12 Sivan	16 FRI	27 Sivan
2 FRI	13 Sivan	● 17 SAT	28 Sivan
○ 3 SAT	14 Sivan	18 SUN	29 Sivan
4 SUN	15 Sivan	19 MON	30 Sivan
5 MON	16 Sivan	20 TUE	1 Tamuz
6 TUE	17 Sivan	21 WED	2 Tamuz
7 WED	18 Sivan	22 THU	3 Tamuz
8 THU	19 Sivan	23 FRI	4 Tamuz
9 FRI	20 Sivan	24 SAT	5 Tamuz
● 10 SAT	21 Sivan	25 SUN	6 Tamuz
11 SUN	22 Sivan	● 26 MON	7 Tamuz
12 MON	23 Sivan	27 TUE	8 Tamuz
13 TUE	24 Sivan	28 WED	9 Tamuz
14 WED	25 Sivan	29 THU	10 Tamuz
15 THU	26 Sivan	30 FRI	11 Tamuz

Holidays:

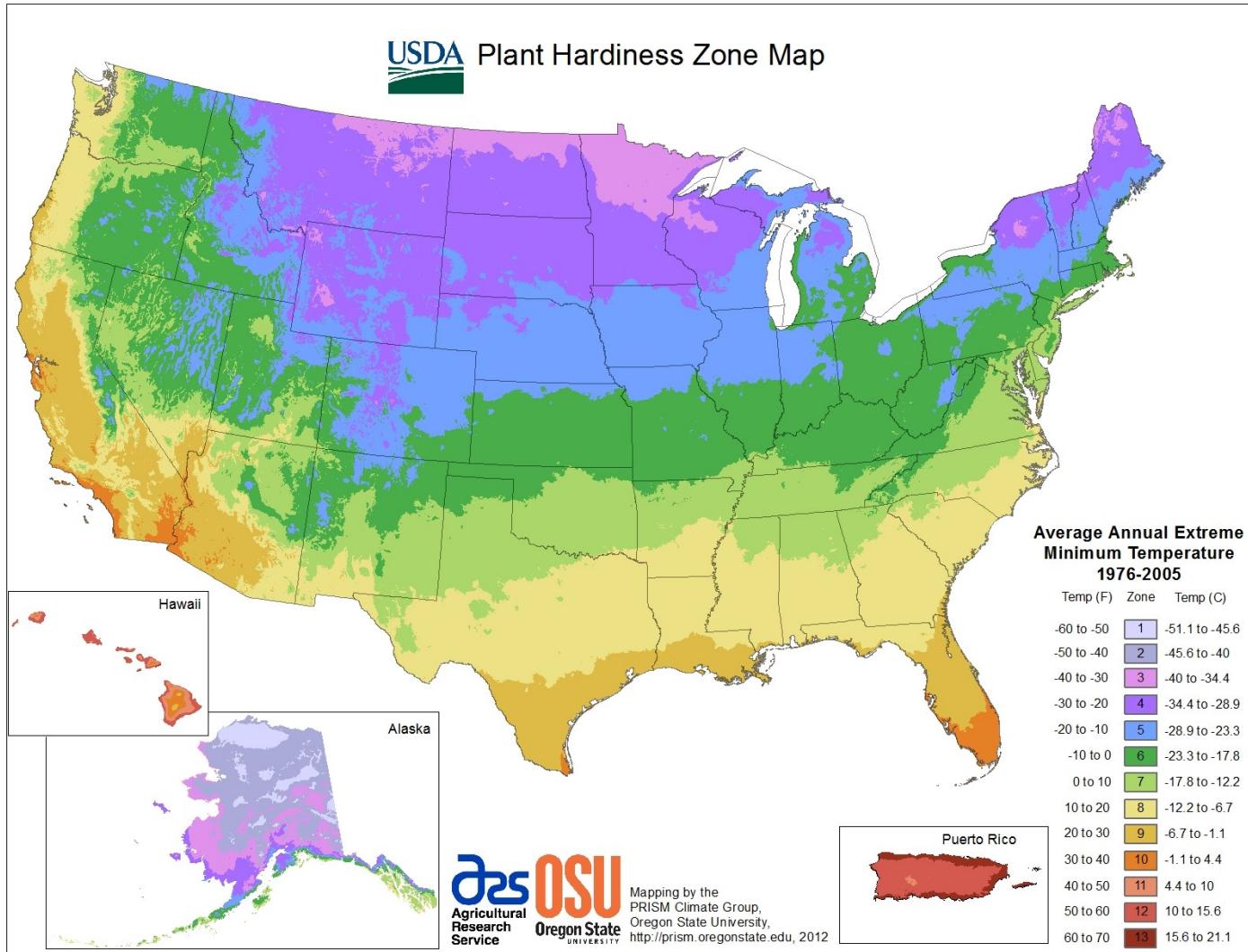
- 1: Pride Month begins
- 12: Loving Day
- 18: Father's Day (US)
- 19: Juneteenth (US)
- 19-20: Rosh Chodesh
- 21: June Solstice

Torah Portions:

- 3: Beha'alotcha
Num. 8:1-12:16
- 10: Sh'lach
Num. 13:1-15:41
- 17: Korach
Num. 16:1-18:32
- 24: Chukat

"the freedom to marry, or not marry, a person of another race resides with the individual, and cannot be infringed by the State."

- Chief Justice Earl Warren in *Loving v. Virginia* (1967)



Gardening by the moon?

Gardeners have been using the moon phases for centuries to help them decide when to plant, cultivate, and harvest their crops. This practice is based on the idea that the gravitational pull of the moon affects the soil, the water and the plants in the garden.

The moon affects the tides and the earth's magnetic field in various ways, hence some gardeners believe these effects can be harnessed to their advantage. Planting during certain moon phases can help to maximize the growth of plants, as the moon's gravitational pull affects the water content in the soil and the amount of nutrients in the soil. For example, planting during a waxing moon might help to increase the water content in the soil, while planting during a waning moon might help to increase the nutrient content.

Gardeners also use the moon phases to help determine when to harvest their crops. These phases are seen as an indicator of when the crops will reach peak ripeness, and the right combination of moon phase and crop can help ensure a successful harvest. For example, some gardeners believe that harvesting root crops during the waning moon phase can help to ensure that the crops are plump and full of nutrients. Similarly, harvesting above ground crops during the waxing phase can help to ensure they are juicy and full of flavor.

We don't claim that gardening by the moon actually works, but we do find it to be an interesting cultural practice (with obvious potential connections to the lunar-based agriculture calendar of the ancient Hebrews).



July 2023 – Tamuz/Av 5783

#	Day	Hebrew	#	Day	Hebrew	Holidays:
	1 SAT	12 Tamuz		16 SUN	27 Tamuz	1: Canada Day
	2 SUN	13 Tamuz	●	17 MON	28 Tamuz	4: Independence Day (US)
○	3 MON	14 Tamuz		18 TUE	29 Tamuz	19: Rosh Chodesh
	4 TUE	15 Tamuz		19 WED	1 Av	27: Tisha B'Av
	5 WED	16 Tamuz		20 THU	2 Av	
	6 THU	17 Tamuz		21 FRI	3 Av	
	7 FRI	18 Tamuz		22 SAT	4 Av	
	8 SAT	19 Tamuz		23 SUN	5 Av	
●	9 SUN	20 Tamuz		24 MON	6 Av	
	10 MON	21 Tamuz	●	25 TUE	7 Av	1: Balak
	11 TUE	22 Tamuz		26 WED	8 Av	Num. 22:2-25:9
	12 WED	23 Tamuz		27 THU	9 Av	8: Pinchas
	13 THU	24 Tamuz		28 FRI	10 Av	Num. 25:10-30:1
	14 FRI	25 Tamuz		29 SAT	11 Av	15: Matot-Masei
	15 SAT	26 Tamuz		30 SUN	12 Av	Num. 30:2-36:13
				31 MON	13 Av	22: Devarim

"Pray for the well-being of Jerusalem;

Deut. 1:1-3:22

'May those who love you be at peace. ''

29: Vaetchanan

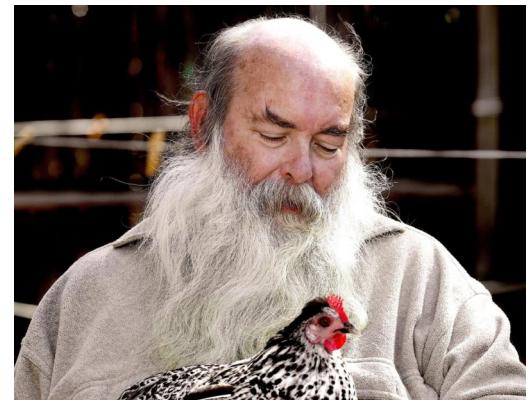
- Psalm 122:6

Deut. 3:23-7:11

7 Easy Steps to Kitchen Frugality and Tasty Food!

By Bob Waldrop (of blessed memory, 1952-2019)

1. Understand that food is not just fuel, food is the way we maintain life. It speaks of our families and our culture, our identity as persons, families, communities, "You are what you eat", as they say. Eating is an agricultural act, and eating is a moral act. Our food choices have impacts far beyond our own kitchens. The nice thing about that is what's best for us in the kitchen is also best for the planet too. This is why we are abandoning manufactured fast foods in favor of slow food, true food, good food, loving and healing food, nutritious food, tasty food..



2. Develop a certain level of organization in your kitchen. Plan your meals and organize your shopping. In the beginning, plan more, as you gain more experience you can improvise more but in the beginning it is best to write everything down and make lists and schedules. The busier you are, the more necessary it is that you do this. Most of us waste a tremendous amount of money in groceries stores because we buy on impulse, or because we think we might need something sometime in the future for some unknown recipe. Then we get home and find we forgot something we actually needed, so we go back to the store and end up with more junk that we didn't really need because we went in to get "just one thing."

3. Start cooking your meals from basic ingredients. Stop buying mixes and prepared foods. Use the strategies described in this publication to reduce your monthly supermarket food cost.. Shop smart, and shop wisely. Practice does make perfect in these activities.

4. Start a garden. If you have no land, find a community garden. Get some food processing equipment, learn weekly, monthly, and seasonal food processing. Grow as much food as you can, and preserve food you grow in the summer for eating in the winter. If you don't have a freezer, get one. Share one with a neighbor if necessary.

5. Stock up on basic staples and increase the amount of food you keep in your pantry so that you are not vulnerable to weekly or monthly mood swings in supermarket prices. Note that this is the equivalent of having your own in-home grocery store. The more times you go to the store, the more money you will spend, so shop less and you will spend this. To do this successfully, you must keep more food on hand in your pantry.

6. Set aside one or two afternoons a month and "cook ahead". Look at your meal plan, and do what you can ahead of time on these "cook days". Use your freezer to help you prepare quick meals of "slow food" later in the week or month. You can make bread dough for a week in 20 minutes. If you will need 4 pounds of fried ground beef for 3 meals, fry all 4 pounds on Cook Day and freeze it until you need it. Make soup stocks and freeze them for use later. Keep a bag of cooked, frozen meatballs, and a bag of cooked, frozen hamburger patties in your freezer, and there are the basic ingredients for spaghetti and meatballs, Oklahoma meatballs, hamburgers, or Redneck Salisbury Steak. Do one or two projects at a time, don't attempt too much at first. Don't be afraid to start small, that's the best way.

7. As you get more experience with this Better Times way of doing slow food easily and conveniently, you will save money on your supermarket groceries because you are changing your shopping and cooking habits. Now you can look for better quality ingredients from local sources, even if they cost a bit more. You will find that you can spend a little more for quality local ingredients (depending of course on your access to them) - such as locally grown organic produce, free-ranging and grass fed meats, olive oil instead of shortening, butter instead of margarine - while at the same time spending less overall on your groceries. My household now gets 80% of its food directly from Oklahoma farmers, and we aren't spending any more money than we did when we used to get everything from supermarkets. Some of this savings is possible because we have a garden and grow vegetables, we also have fruit and berry trees and bushes. Having fruit and nut trees and berry bushes is like having money grow on trees right there in your own yard.



August 2023 – Av/Elul 5783

#	Day	Hebrew	#	Day	Hebrew	Holidays:
○	1 TUE	14 Av	●	16 WED	29 Av	2: Tu B'Av
	2 WED	15 Av		17 THU	30 Av	2-3: Oklahoma Green Corn Rebellion 106th Anniversary
	3 THU	16 Av		18 FRI	1 Elul	17-18: Rosh Chodesh
	4 FRI	17 Av		19 SAT	2 Elul	18: Rosh Hashana LaBehemot
	5 SAT	18 Av		20 SUN	3 Elul	
	6 SUN	19 Av		21 MON	4 Elul	
	7 MON	20 Av		22 TUE	5 Elul	
○	8 TUE	21 Av		23 WED	6 Elul	
	9 WED	22 Av	●	24 THU	7 Elul	Torah Portions:
	10 THU	23 Av		25 FRI	8 Elul	5: Eikev
	11 FRI	24 Av		26 SAT	9 Elul	Deut. 7:12-11:25
	12 SAT	25 Av		27 SUN	10 Elul	12: Re'eh
	13 SUN	26 Av		28 MON	11 Elul	Deut. 11:26-16:17
	14 MON	27 Av		29 TUE	12 Elul	19: Shoftim
	15 TUE	28 Av	○	30 WED	13 Elul	Deut. 16:18-21:9
				31 THU	14 Elul	26: Ki Teitzei
						Deut. 21:10-25:19

"...Elul -- a time to gaze upon the inner mountains, to devote serious attention to bringing our lives into focus . . . to find out who we are and where we are going." —Rabbi Alan Lew

1950's Jewish Recipes...

The following recipes are reprinted from *Let's Eat*, a cookbook published by the Oklahoma City chapter of Hadassah sometime between 1951-1955.

The full cookbook is in the public domain and can be found at: <https://archive.org/details/lets-eat-cookbook-okc-1950s>

APPLE CAKE

1 cup flour	3/4 tsp baking powder
1/2 tsp salt	1 egg
1/2 cup sugar	1/2 to 3/4 cup milk
1 lb butter	2 lbs apples

Sift flour, baking powder, salt, sugar in a bowl. Cut 3/4 cube of butter into dry ingredients. Add egg and milk. Batter should be thin or not able to be rolled, hence judge quantity of milk. Pour batter into 8 or 9" pie plate. Quarter 2 lbs apples. Put in pie plate, cover with 1 cup sugar. Add cinnamon. Top with remaining bar of butter. Add more to make richer cake. Bake in 375° oven from 35 to 50 minutes. Apples must be tender and cake brown.

Mrs. F. M. Leterman



HAMAN TASSEN

5 or 6 eggs	1/2 tsp baking soda
2 cups sugar	1 tsp baking powder
2 1/2 pts coffee cream	1/2 lb butter
2 tsp cream of tartar	cinnamon powder

Sift dry ingredients, flour, cream of tartar, soda and baking powder 3 times. For the filling grind the following ingredients in a food chopper:

2 lbs large prunes (remove seeds)
2 lbs apricots
1 lb seedless raisins

Take one egg, pour into mixer with the fruits and then add 2 tbsp syrup or jelly and sugar to suit taste. Mix all this with the fruit.

Roll the Haman Tassen crust into small triangles and fill with the mixture of fruit, pulling the corners of crust up to keep triangle shape.

Grease baking pan and line with waxed paper. Let rise about 20 minutes or more. Light oven. Take one egg and beat well and brush over the Haman Tassen just before putting into oven. Put in oven for 15 minutes at 275°. Remove from bottom shelf and place on top shelf at 300° for 30 minutes.

Mrs. Sarah Sachs

POT ROAST

5 lb boneless brisket	2 large onions
or other meat	1 tsp paprika
1 carrot, diced	1 can tomato sauce
1 clove garlic, minced	salt and pepper

Use heavy dutch oven. Slice onions and salt liberally and place over medium heat. Let onions cook until soft and transparent. Then sear meat on all sides. Season and add garlic, carrot and tomato sauce and cook about 3 hours or until tender. Add approximately 1 cup of boiling water during cooking time.

Mrs. Herman Masters



BARBECUED BRISKET

4 lb brisket	1 tbsp vinegar
2 onions	1 tbsp Worcestershire
1/2 cup catsup	Paprika
1 tsp chili powder	1/2 cup boiling water
1 small clove garlic	

Sear the brisket until well browned. Mix the other ingredients and cook together, until the diced onions are done. Strain the fat from the meat and pour the sauce over the meat. Cook in a 325° oven for about 2 hours, or until tender.

Mrs. Sol Rubenstein

PECAN MACROONS

6 egg whites, beaten	2 cups Pecans
1 cup sugar	1 tsp vanilla

Beat egg whites very stiff and dry. Then grind fine the Pecans. Mix all ingredients well together and drop by teaspoon onto a greased cookie sheet.

Place 1/2 Pecan on top of each cookie. Bake in a slow oven, 200° until set, for 10 to 15 minutes, then raise to 300° and bake until done.

Mrs. Lee Kiefer

CHOCOLATE MACAROONS

1/2 lb coconut	1 can evaporated milk
3 sq chocolate	1 tsp vanilla

Mix together coconut, melted chocolate and milk. Add vanilla. Drop from spoon onto a buttered cookie sheet and bake in slow oven.

Rose Karchmer



September 2023 – Elul/Tishrei 5783

#Day	Hebrew	#Day	Hebrew	Holidays:
1 FRI	15 Elul	16 SAT	1 Tishrei	4: Labor Day (US)
2 SAT	16 Elul	17 SUN	2 Tishrei	16: Rosh HaShanah
3 SUN	17 Elul	18 MON	3 Tishrei	23: September Equinox
4 MON	18 Elul	19 TUE	4 Tishrei	25: Yom Kippur
5 TUE	19 Elul	20 WED	5 Tishrei	30: Sukkot Starts
● 6 WED	20 Elul	21 THU	6 Tishrei	
7 THU	21 Elul	● 22 FRI	7 Tishrei	Torah Portions:
8 FRI	22 Elul	23 SAT	8 Tishrei	2: Ki Tavo Deut. 26:1-29:8
9 SAT	23 Elul	24 SUN	9 Tishrei	9: Nitzavim-Vayeilech Deut. 29:9-31:30
10 SUN	24 Elul	25 MON	10 Tishrei	23: Ha'Azinu Deut. 32:1-32:52
11 MON	25 Elul	26 TUE	11 Tishrei	
12 TUE	26 Elul	27 WED	12 Tishrei	
13 WED	27 Elul	28 THU	13 Tishrei	
● 14 THU	28 Elul	● 29 FRI	14 Tishrei	
15 FRI	29 Elul	30 SAT	15 Tishrei	

"(T)he new Judaism is liberated from the past. It studies the past, uses the past, borrows from the past, but does not need the approval of the past. It has no need to appropriate what does not fit."

- Rabbi Sherwin Wine

Low/No-Cost Jewish Education

In the spirit of the original *Jewish Catalog*, we would like to share the following list of resources for low and no-cost Jewish Education (chosen for educational value, not necessarily 100% agreement):

Podcasts:

- *Judaism Unbound* - JudaismUnbound.com
- *Chutzpod* - ChutzPod.com
- *Adventures in Jewish Studies* - bit.ly/3BJYn26
- *A Bintel Brief* - Forward.com/a-bintel-brief-podcast
- *Central Synagogue Podcast* - apple.co/3uYJWDx
- *Jews for Secular Democracy* - apple.co/3HQGAud
- *Wondering Jews* - Wonderingjewspodcast.com
- *Talking in Shul* - jpmedia.co/podcasts/talking-in-shul
- *Can we talk?* - jwa.org/podcasts/canwetalk
- *Treyf Podcast* - TreyfPodcast.com

Audio Books:

- Scribd.com (many Jewish audio and ebooks for a monthly fee)
- Audible.com (look for The Great Courses series classes on Jewish topics)

Libraries

- Sefaria.org
- JewishVirtualLibrary.org
- Your local synagogue's congregational library (often accessible to members and possibly the public)

Low and No Cost Online Classes and Lectures:

- Unyeshiva.org
- DarshanYeshiva.org
- MyJewishLearning.com
- edX Judaism Courses - edx.org/learn/judaism
- Keshet Resources - www.keshetonline.org/resources-and-events/
- JTS Community Learning - www.jtsa.edu/community-learning/
- YIVO's Shine Online Classes - yivo.org/online-classes
- Bimbam.com (especially for families)
- Sherwin Wine Archive - SherwinWine.com
- Hadar.org
- Eli Talks - Myjewishlearning.com/eli-talks/
- Elmad.pardes.org
- JDOV.org
- OCCSP.net
- IISHJ— iishj.org/resources/adult-learning/
- Chabad Classes—bit.ly/3Wxga4q

Liturgy and Calendar:

- OpenSiddur.org
- RitualWell.org
- Haggadot.com
- HebCal.com
- JewishAlmanac.com



October 2023 – Tishrei/Cheshvan

#Day	Hebrew	#Day	Hebrew
1 SUN	16 Tishrei	16 MON	1 Cheshvan
2 MON	17 Tishrei	17 TUE	2 Cheshvan
3 TUE	18 Tishrei	18 WED	3 Cheshvan
4 WED	19 Tishrei	19 THU	4 Cheshvan
5 THU	20 Tishrei	20 FRI	5 Cheshvan
● 6 FRI	21 Tishrei	● 21 SAT	6 Cheshvan
7 SAT	22 Tishrei	22 SUN	7 Cheshvan
8 SUN	23 Tishrei	23 MON	8 Cheshvan
9 MON	24 Tishrei	24 TUE	9 Cheshvan
10 TUE	25 Tishrei	25 WED	10 Cheshvan
11 WED	26 Tishrei	26 THU	11 Cheshvan
12 THU	27 Tishrei	27 FRI	12 Cheshvan
13 FRI	28 Tishrei	● 28 SAT	13 Cheshvan
● 14 SAT	29 Tishrei	29 SUN	14 Cheshvan
15 SUN	30 Tishrei	30 MON	15 Cheshvan
		31 TUE	16 Cheshvan

Holidays:

- 1-6: Continued Sukkot
- 7: Shmini Atzeret
- 8: Simchat Torah
- 9: Indigenous Peoples / Anti-Columbus Day
- 10: Thanksgiving (CAN)
- 15-16: Rosh Chodesh
- 28: Havdallaween
- 31: Halloween

Torah Portions:

- 14: Bereshit
Gen. 1:1-6-8
- 21: Noach
Gen. 6:9-11:32
- 28: Lech-Lecha
Gen. 12:1-17:27

"I don't think anybody anywhere can talk about the future of their people or of an organization without talking about education. Whoever controls the education of our children controls our future."

- Chief Wilma Mankiller (Cherokee)

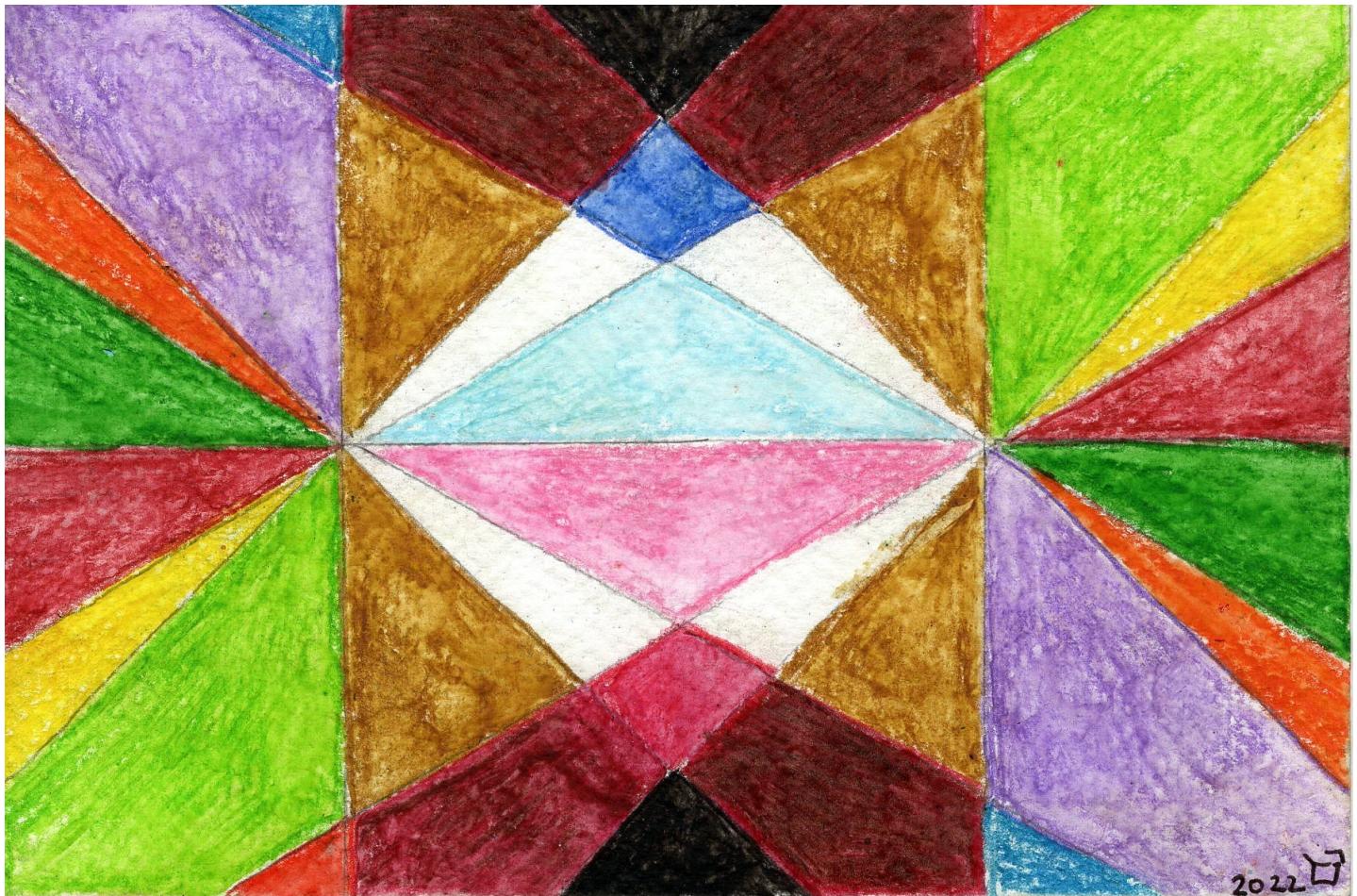
Reference

Table of Measures

APOTHECARIES'	1 span = 9 inches 1 foot = 12 inches 1 yard = 3 feet 1 rod = 5½ yards 1 mile = 320 rods = 1,760 yards = 5,280 feet	1 square chain = 16 square rods 1 acre = 10 square chains
CUBIC	1 cubic foot = 1,728 cubic inches 1 cubic yard = 27 cubic feet	1 cubic foot = 1,728 cubic inches 1 cubic yard = 128 cubic feet
AVOIDUPOS	1 knot = 1 nautical mile per hour 1 fathom = 2 yards = 6 feet 1 furong = ½ mile = 660 feet = 220 yards	1 U.S. liquid gallon = 4 quarts = 231 cubic inches 1 imperial gallon = 1.20 U.S. gallons = 0.16 cubic foot 1 board foot = 144 cubic inches
KITCHEN	1 league = 3 miles = 24 furlongs 1 chain = 100 links = 22 yards	3 teaspoons = 1 tablespoon 16 tablespoons = 1 cup
SQUARE	1 square foot = 144 square inches 1 square yard = 9 square feet 1 square rod = 30 ¼ square yards = 272 ¼ square feet	1 cup = 8 ounces 2 cups = 1 pint 2 pints = 1 quart 4 quarts = 1 gallon
DRY	2 pipes = 1 tun 4 quarts = 1 gallon 2 gallons = 1 peck 4 pecks = 1 bushel	TO CONVERT CELSIUS AND FAHRENHEIT: $^{\circ}\text{C} = (\text{°F} - 32)/1.8$ $\text{°F} = (\text{°C} \times 1.8) + 32$
LINEAR	1 hand = 4 inches 1 link = 7.92 inches	
Metric Conversions	1 square mile = 2.59 square kilometers 1 square kilometer = 0.386 square mile 1 acre = 0.40 hectare 1 hectare = 2.47 acres	1 square mile = 60 mL ½ cup = 75 mL ½ cup = 125 mL ⅔ cup = 150 mL ¾ cup = 175 mL 1 cup = 250 mL 1 liter = 1.057 U.S. liquid quarts 1 U.S. liquid quart = 0.946 liter 1 U.S. liquid gallon = 3.78 liters 1 gram = 0.035 ounce 1 ounce = 28.349 grams 1 kilogram = 2.2 pounds 1 pound = 0.45 kilogram
CUBIC	1 cubic yard = 0.76 cubic meter	
SQUARE	1 square inch = 6.45 square centimeters 1 square yard = 0.84 square meter	1 cubic meter = 1.31 cubic yards HOUSEHOLD ½ teaspoon = 2 mL 1 teaspoon = 5 mL 1 tablespoon = 15 mL



Image adapted from: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Time_zones_of_the_world-UTC.svg



November 2023 – Tamuz/Av 5783

# Day	Hebrew	# Day	Hebrew	Holidays:
1 WED	17 Cheshvan	16 THU	3 Kislev	5: DST Ends (US)
2 THU	18 Cheshvan	17 FRI	4 Kislev	11: Veterans Day (US)
3 FRI	19 Cheshvan	18 SAT	5 Kislev	13: Sigid
4 SAT	20 Cheshvan	19 SUN	6 Kislev	14: Rosh Chodesh
● 5 SUN	21 Cheshvan	● 20 MON	7 Kislev	23: Thanksgiving (US)
6 MON	22 Cheshvan	21 TUE	8 Kislev	Torah Portions:
7 TUE	23 Cheshvan	22 WED	9 Kislev	4: Vayera Gen. 18:1-22:24
8 WED	24 Cheshvan	23 THU	10 Kislev	11: Chayeis Sara Gen. 23:1-25:18
9 THU	25 Cheshvan	24 FRI	11 Kislev	18: Toldot Gen. 25:19-28:9
10 FRI	26 Cheshvan	25 SAT	12 Kislev	25: Vayetzei Gen. 28:10-32:3
11 SAT	27 Cheshvan	26 SUN	13 Kislev	
12 SUN	28 Cheshvan	● 27 MON	14 Kislev	
● 13 MON	29 Cheshvan	28 TUE	15 Kislev	
14 TUE	1 Kislev	29 WED	16 Kislev	
15 WED	2 Kislev	30 THU	17 Kislev	

"May the children of the Stock of Abraham, who dwell in this land, continue to merit and enjoy the good will of the other inhabitants; while every one shall sit in safety under his own vine and figtree, and there shall be none to make him afraid."

- George Washington in a letter to the Jews of Newport, RI (1790)

Astronomical Highlights for 2023

Meteor Showers

January 3, 4 - Quadrantids Meteor Shower

April 22, 23 - Lyrids Meteor Shower

May 6, 7 - Eta Aquarids Meteor Shower

July 28, 29 - Delta Aquarids Meteor Shower

August 12, 13 - Perseids Meteor Shower

October 7 - Draconids Meteor Shower

October 21, 22 - Orionids Meteor Shower

November 4, 5 - Taurids Meteor Shower

November 17, 18 - Leonids Meteor Shower

December 13, 14 - Geminids Meteor Shower

December 21, 22 - Ursids Meteor Shower

Eclipses

April 20 - Hybrid Solar Eclipse. - visible throughout most of Indonesia, Australia and surrounding regions.

May 5 - Penumbral Lunar Eclipse. - visible through all of Asia and Australia and parts of eastern Europe and eastern Africa.

October 14 - Annular Solar Eclipse. - visible throughout much of North and South America.

October 28 - Partial Lunar Eclipse. visible throughout all of Europe, Asia, and Africa, and western Australia.

Super Moons

A supermoon is a full or new moon that nearly coincides with perigee—the closest that the Moon comes to the Earth in its elliptic orbit—resulting in a slightly larger-than-usual apparent size of the lunar disk .

July 3

August 1

August 31 (also a blue moon)

September 29



https://en.wikipedia.org/wikimedia/Meteor_shower#/media/File:AGOMondra_Leonids98.jpg

Equinoxes and Solstices

March 20 - March Equinox

June 21 - June Solstice

September 23 - September Equinox

December 22 - December Solstice

Other Highlights:

August 27 - Saturn at Opposition - This is when Saturn is at its closest approach to the earth and has its face fully illuminated by the Sun. It should be visible all night long and if you use a medium sized or larger telescope you may be able to see the planet's rings and some of its brightest moons.

November 3 - Jupiter at Opposition. - This is when the planet is at its closest point to the Earth and when its face will be fully illuminated by the Sun. The giant planet will be at its closest approach to Earth and its face will be fully illuminated by the Sun. It should be visible all night long and will be at its brightest point. A good telescope may allow you to see the details in Jupiter's cloud bands, while binoculars should allow you to make out Jupiter's four largest moons.



December 2023 – Kislev/Tevet 5783

# Day	Hebrew	# Day	Hebrew	Holidays:
1 FRI	18 Kislev	16 SAT	4 Tevet	7-14: Eight Nights of Hanukkah
2 SAT	19 Kislev	17 SUN	5 Tevet	13: Rosh Chodesh
3 SUN	20 Kislev	18 MON	6 Tevet	22: December Solstice
● 4 MON	21 Kislev	● 19 TUE	7 Tevet	25: Christmas
5 TUE	22 Kislev	20 WED	8 Tevet	31: New Years Eve
6 WED	23 Kislev	21 THU	9 Tevet	Torah Portions:
7 THU	24 Kislev	22 FRI	10 Tevet	2: Vayishlach
8 FRI	25 Kislev	23 SAT	11 Tevet	Gen. 32:4-36:43
9 SAT	26 Kislev	24 SUN	12 Tevet	9: Vayeshev
10 SUN	27 Kislev	25 MON	13 Tevet	Gen. 37:1-40:23
11 MON	28 Kislev	● 26 TUE	14 Tevet	16: Miketz
● 12 TUE	29 Kislev	27 WED	15 Tevet	Gen. 41:1-44:17
13 WED	1 Tevet	28 THU	16 Tevet	23: Vayigash
14 THU	2 Tevet	29 FRI	17 Tevet	Gen. 44:18-47:27
15 FRI	3 Tevet	30 SAT	18 Tevet	30: Vayechi
		31 SUN	19 Tevet	Gen. 47:28-50:26

"This is the season when people of all faiths and cultures are pushing back against the planetary darkness. We string bulbs, ignite bonfires, and light candles. And we sing."

—Anita Diamant

Notes about the art:

January— This picture is called *Mazel* (stars) and was inspired by the growing #Mazeldon community of the Mastodon social media platform.

February—This simple picture is of a tree at Greene Family Camp in Bruceville, Texas, in recognition of the holiday of Tu B'shvat. I created it at Tu B'shvat retreat at the camp in early 2020 (very early in the pandemic).

March—This abstract picture reminds me of the glimmer of jewels, a reminder of the heroism of Queen Esther, which we celebrate during Purim in March.

April—This picture represents the idea of solidarity as an active component of deep peace. There are four words written in four languages: *Shalom* (peace in Hebrew), *Salaam* (peace in Arabic), *Solidarity*, and *Gadugi* (pulling together, solidarity in the TsaLaGi/Cherokee language).

May—*Esh* (fire), inspired by the art on the ark in the chapel at Temple B'nai Israel in Oklahoma City. I chose it for May in recognition of the tradition of bonfires to celebrate Lag B'omer.

June—This image has two layers of intended meaning. The rainbow represents LGBTQ pride and human diversity. The words in Hebrew (roughly translated) say: “Blessed are you, our World, that sustains life.”

July—This picture is a simple picture, drawn from a photograph taken by a friend on her first trip to Jerusalem.

August— The symbols are of honey comb and flowers, both symbols of vitality and the sweet-ness of life.

September—This picture was created in May 2021 after the announcement of a ceasefire during a time of conflict in Israel/Palestine. The words of “Oseh Shalom” are written in Hebrew as a prayer for peace. The picture was chosen for the High Holiday season as a reflection of peace as our highest ideal, during this holy season of individual and communal reflection.

October—This picture is of the portico area of Temple B'nai Israel in Oklahoma City, the oldest continually meeting synagogue in Oklahoma.

November—This abstract geometrical image is called “Transition,” in honor of the transgender members of the Jewish community and the beauty of human diversity.

December—I created this picture during a recent board meeting of the Society for Humanistic Judaism, as a meditation on the importance of Humanistic Jewish values in decision-making (invoking the idea of a compass).

NOTES: